
EDITORIAL

The pleasure of surviving a first issue is difficult to describe. In a world of constant novelties, digital knowledge and content change, the efforts necessary to maintain such a delicate, yet consistent project such as a new journal to a certain extent involves an experience similar to parenthood, where you take painstaking care of the new baby, feed it with the very best resources available, protect it from inclemency (social, cultural, economic, political, emotional) and above all, believe firmly in the optimum development of the *baby*, and in the capacity of the new publications to occupy its place in the world.

This second issue of *Karanos. Bulletin of Ancient Macedonian Studies* has certainly represented a step forward, slow but firm, for our journal within the panorama of international research, and within our field of study – *Ancient Macedonian Studies*. Of course it is a time for some caution with regard to the future of a journal that has only published two issues, but it is also a time to evaluate the warm reception that the first issue received in the academic community, which confirms that the gap which existed until 2018 for a journal covering our areas of work was real and needed to be filled. Researchers around the world have sent us their encouragement to celebrate the existence of *Karanos*, which effectively covers our topics and concerns at the research level.

The continuation of *Karanos* after the first issue has a lot to do with the support that it has received from all sorts of colleagues, from many different countries with different methodological trends within our field of study. There is no doubt that much of our responsibility for that falls on the members of our Editorial Board, which has now been expanded to ensure an equal gender balance. Without the support of these eminent colleagues, who have shown themselves to be open to collaboration and advice at all times and have helped to disseminate the existence of our project among circles of scholars, maybe this second issue would not be possible, or at least not in the same way. The direct consequence of this has been that we have received many proposals of papers to be published in *Karanos*. Our quality control policy, however, and the advice of our referees provoked that we have had to reject many of these articles, despite the clear value of some of them, in our desire to promote first class publications which can effectively help to advance knowledge and perceptions of the different thematic frameworks related to *Ancient Macedonian Studies*. However, as director, I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have sent their submissions to a journal with just one issue published. We hope that many researchers will continue to read it for a long time.

The nature of the first issue was really special, since it offers a homage to Prof. Brian Bosworth, produced through the invitation of a number of specific researchers by the journal's Editorial Board to get it going, and as director I have to confess that this second issue is also something exceptional. On this occasion we have maintained the format of the peer-reviewed journal so the articles contained in *Issue 2* have been

reviewed by our kind referees. The authors who share the pages of this issue are equally eminent researchers in our field and names such as William Greenwalt, Victor Alonso Troncoso or Ian Worthington, true masters of their areas of work, fill this issue of *Karanos* with pride and honour, side by side with other lesser known researchers such as E. M. Pitt and C. Heredia, or even myself, enabling *Karanos* to demonstrate its firm support from young researchers.

In a way, it is to this group of young, and not so young, researchers, that we think of as readers of the article that we have highlighted in the *Flashbacks* section. Giving certain continuity to the homage in the first issue, in *Issue 2* we have selected an article by Prof. Bosworth, originally published in 1983, which allows us on the one hand to focus on one of the main interests of *Karanos*, which is historiography, offering also the opportunity to know one of Bosworth's less accessible works, which until now has been difficult for the general public to access. Undoubtedly, and despite the passing of time, reading this study will be interesting and very contemporary, and will offer an opportunity to rethink, in the words of Pierre Briant, the need to look more deeply into the historiography of Alexander as an innovative way of reformulating our perception of him through an analysis of views which have had a great impact on both the academic and popular perception of this historical, charismatic, controversial figure who is constantly under review.

If we had to assess the balance between the first and second issue of *Karanos*, perhaps one of the aspects that we know has gone down well and clearly marked out our area of work, is the space dedicated to the *Main Voices on Ancient Macedonian Studies*. To the interview with Greenwalt in the first issue we now have the pleasure of adding one with Joseph Roisman, who with his usual cordial and friendly tone, kindly agreed to answer our questions on his understanding of research, his interest in Ancient History and his own topics of study. It is not as the director of *Karanos*, but on a personal level, that I would like to say what a nice, friendly and personable person Joseph Roisman is, with great attention to people and to detail, and always open, in my opinion and own experience, to lend a hand with his observations, comments and advice which are highly useful and lead to deeper reflection. Discussing specific aspects of our work with someone like Roisman is one of those unmatched pleasures that we have in our lives as researchers.

The journal closes, as usual, with reviews of recent publications. We can assess the vitality of our areas of study in *Ancient Macedonian Studies* through the large number of books that have been public in recent years, some of which are monographic studies of aspects which have not been considered systematically until now, or simply changing the perspective and questions to be asked on well-known topics, resulting in new interpretations and with them new focuses and new knowledge. It is clear that *Ancient Macedonian Studies* seems to be in good health and the books reviewed in this issue are proof of that.

Coming back to the beginning once again, to close a circle, the pleasure to surviving the thrills of academic and personal life is a great goal nowadays. Following its birth, *Karanos* is now surviving and well, protected by our experts, our referees, our colleagues and the authors who read our journal and want to publish in it. Nevertheless, the pleasure of directing *Karanos* is always challenging, and the thrills cannot be achieved without the support of many people, beyond academics, who work side by side with us, enjoying each step on the path of life and sharing them with us. Every act is, indeed, a desire to perform what we think our world can be. Along these steps, our life path, our family and friends provide the support for our wishes, and are mainly also the cause of them being carried out. Individually, I cannot imagine a world without

discussion, with the rich interchange of ideas and words, of acts and care. So *Karanos* can help us to build what a world is supposed to be, in order to let us be happy and free. My own footsteps are now shared with my children, Max and Frida, but also with many people who, although they know nothing about Ancient Macedonia, allow me with their company to think, to feel, and to express the aims of my research. Students at our institutions, colleagues in our departments, comrade citizens in our villages and cities, but above all, family and friends, are the beloved people to whom I wish to dedicate all the efforts made to publish this second chance for our community of *Ancient Macedonian Studies*' scholars to come together in these pages, and enjoy them.

So, fingers crossed, feeling more like a Thersites than an Agamemnon, I say to myself: "Enjoy every step to turn back home, and have a good path through life. We'll see each other *on the streets*". *Bon camí, i fins aviat*.

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Bellaterra (Barcelona), November 8th 2019